



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEETING

March 12, 2007

1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

109 West Michigan Avenue Lansing, MI 48933
Second Floor, Room 205

Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Randy Ray Barst
Carole Ann Beaman Ph.D, LLP
Joan Dyer
Darryl K. Gallant
Laurel R. Sproul
Kimberlydawn Wisdom, M.D., M.S.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Bruce C. Jeffries
Clay Powell
Robert D. Sills

STAFF

Donna Strugar-Fritsch
Amy Wiles
Mary Scoblic

PUBLIC

Paul Haan – Healthy Homes Coalition,
WMI
Debby Behringer – MDCH, CLPPP
Sharon Hudson – MDCH, CLPPP
Wesley Priem – MDCH, LHHS
Bob Scott – MDCH, CLPPP
Carol Terrel Smith - Wayne County
Health Department
Vanessa Fluker – Consultant/Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by chairperson, Dr. Wisdom.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minor corrections were noted to the minutes of the January 12, 2007 meeting.

MOTION: Joan Dyer moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2006 with changes as noted.

SECOND: Laurel Sproul

MOTION APPROVED

III. UPDATES

FY 08 State Budget: Mary Scoblic briefed the Commission on budget deliberations. \$11.2 million in Healthy Michigan Funds, used for lead poisoning and many other prevention efforts, are likely to be eliminated. Lead activities covered by these funds included follow up for lead poisoned children, case management, the ombudsman, the lead-safe housing registry, the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission, and the public awareness campaign. The budget process is expected to be protracted and contentious.

DCH Briefing: Mary Scoblic, Dr. Wisdom and Donna Strugar-Fritsch met with DCH leadership to review the Commission's strategic directions. All issues and strategies can be supported by DCH but DCH recommends that the Commission not expect earmarks to be successful. Democratic control in Washington is not supportive of earmarks.

Update from DEQ: DEQ has not taken further action on a long-term funding proposal at this time, except to educate the new legislators about what they intend to bring in the future.

Funding Target Task: Funding targets are under development, though not yet complete. Staff will finalize and forward them to Commissioners.

Liability and Protections Document: Commissioner Powell held a session with attorneys to develop a document outlining liability issues for property owners and abatement workers. A large group of government staff also created a similar document, and staff will integrate them.

Web-Based Course: Final review is underway, and the course will be available soon.

Lead Poison in Upper Peninsula: Commissioner Wisdom noted that few lead poisoned children have been identified in the UP. DCH staff noted that testing rates are lower than the lower peninsula, but also that a study in Delta-Menominee found a lower rate of children tested to be poisoned. Wes Priem noted abatement of several homes in the UP and is looking at a 5-unit in a couple of weeks. Commissioner Beaman noted that nutrition, especially in terms of high fat intake, has been found to contribute to differing rates of lead poisoning in the east and west sides of Detroit, and suggested that as a contributing factor in the UP.

IV. REVIEW AND COMMENT: DRAFT 2007 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Donna walked the group through the draft report. The following questions or concerns were expressed.

- Whole report should emphasize Michigan's 13 hi-risk communities.
- Need to acknowledge that county prosecutors will need resources in order to escalate prosecution of lead violations. Do not have resources and without it, cases won't be tried.
- Regarding the development of low-interest loans, it was noted that the Ombudsman facilitated only 6 PIP loans last year, and that MSHDA offers "forgivable loans" that can be paid back at the time of house sale.
- Wes Priem has created a document of proposed changes to legislation to the Lead Safe Housing Registry law, to attach to the report.
- RE: Continuation of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission, the pediatric provider should represent the Michigan Chapter of Academy of Pediatric Physicians.
- Commissioners would also like to add a representative of the Coordinating Council of County Prosecutors.

- Commissioner Terms of Office should also be identified.
- Re: taxing mortgage sales, more work needs to be done on this proposal.
- Noted that proper statement re: WIC law is “WIC clinics are now required to test all one and two year old children, enrolled in WIC for elevated blood lead.”

Staff will email a draft to the Commissioner before finalizing.

V. REVIEW AND COMMENT: FRAMEWORK FOR LONG-TERM STATE PLAN TO ELIMINATE LEAD POISONING IN MICHIGAN

Draft document will be prepared for June 6, 2007 meeting.

Discussion: needs to be a stand-alone, comprehensive document that describes all the good things that have happened, where we are today, and the gaps that persist. Needs to be usable in educating new Commissioners and others. Draft will be vetted to advocacy groups during development.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vanessa Fluker: Expressed problem with significant funding cuts and their impact on lead poisoning. Encouraged Commission to address the funding cuts explicitly. Suggested that since the Governor’s emphasis has been on education, the Commission should emphasize the impact of preventing lead poisoning on a child’s capacity to learn and grow into a productive worker.

Carol Terrel Smith: Reported a success story – a child diagnosed in 2004 at age 2, lived in Highland Park with a lead level of 34. After 3 years, her lead level was down to 3. It took collaboration with the doctor, public health nurse, and environmental health staff and now home is cleared. How Wayne County will serve these kids is up in the air if Healthy Michigan funds are lost.

Paul Haan: In terms of PA434, he noted that in communities other than Wayne County, the return on investment may not be as great, and that the legislation may be too narrow to be effective. He also noted that the Healthy Michigan fund may not offer the sustainability Michigan needs in lead funding in the long term. He recommends the Commission strive for a permanent, stable source of funding, not linked to Healthy Michigan funds.

VI. SUMMARY AND ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday June 6, 2007, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. Chairperson Wisdom adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:



Donna Strugar-Fritsch

Date: March 19, 2007